

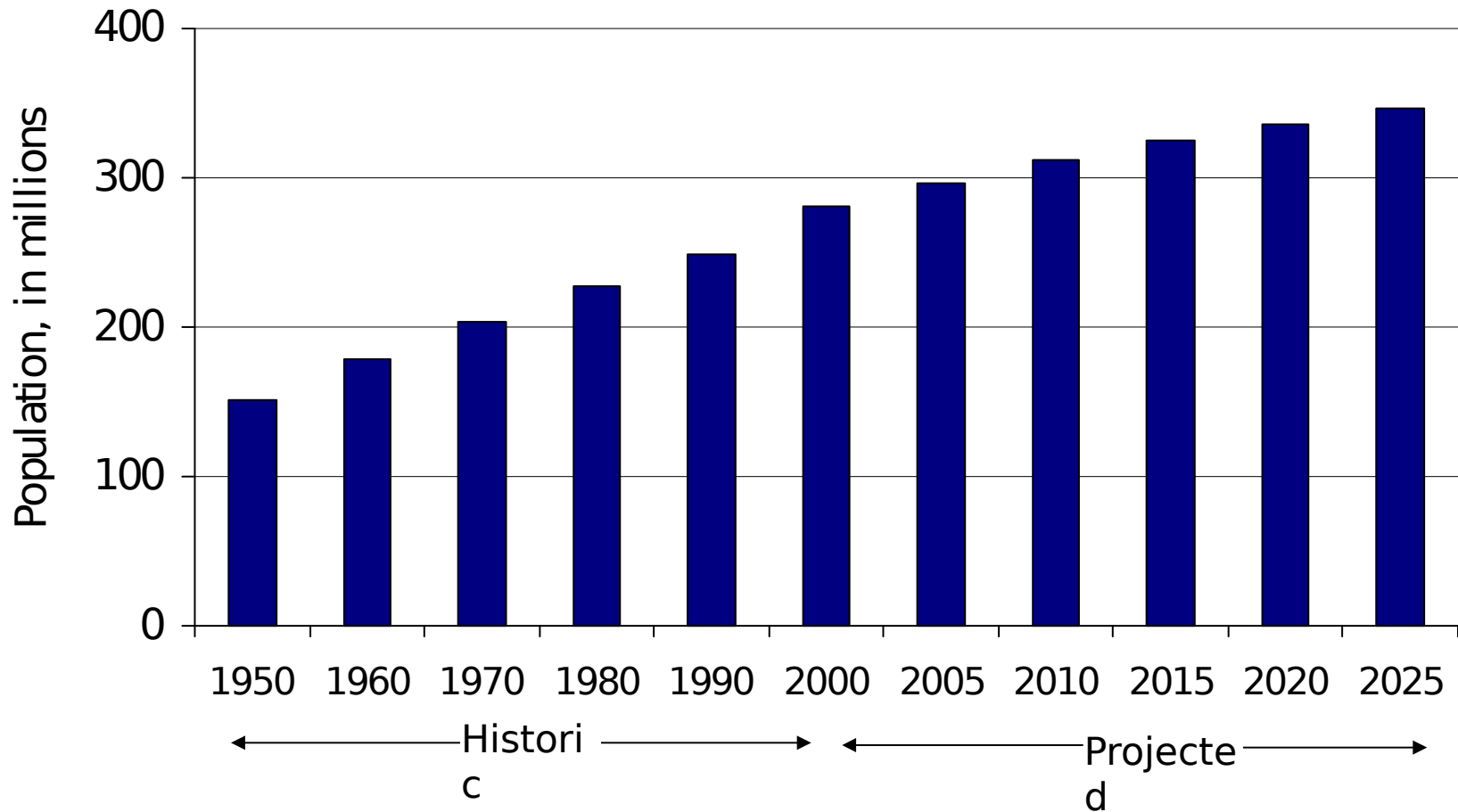


High School Graduates: HSDGs, GEDs, and Other Demographic Issues

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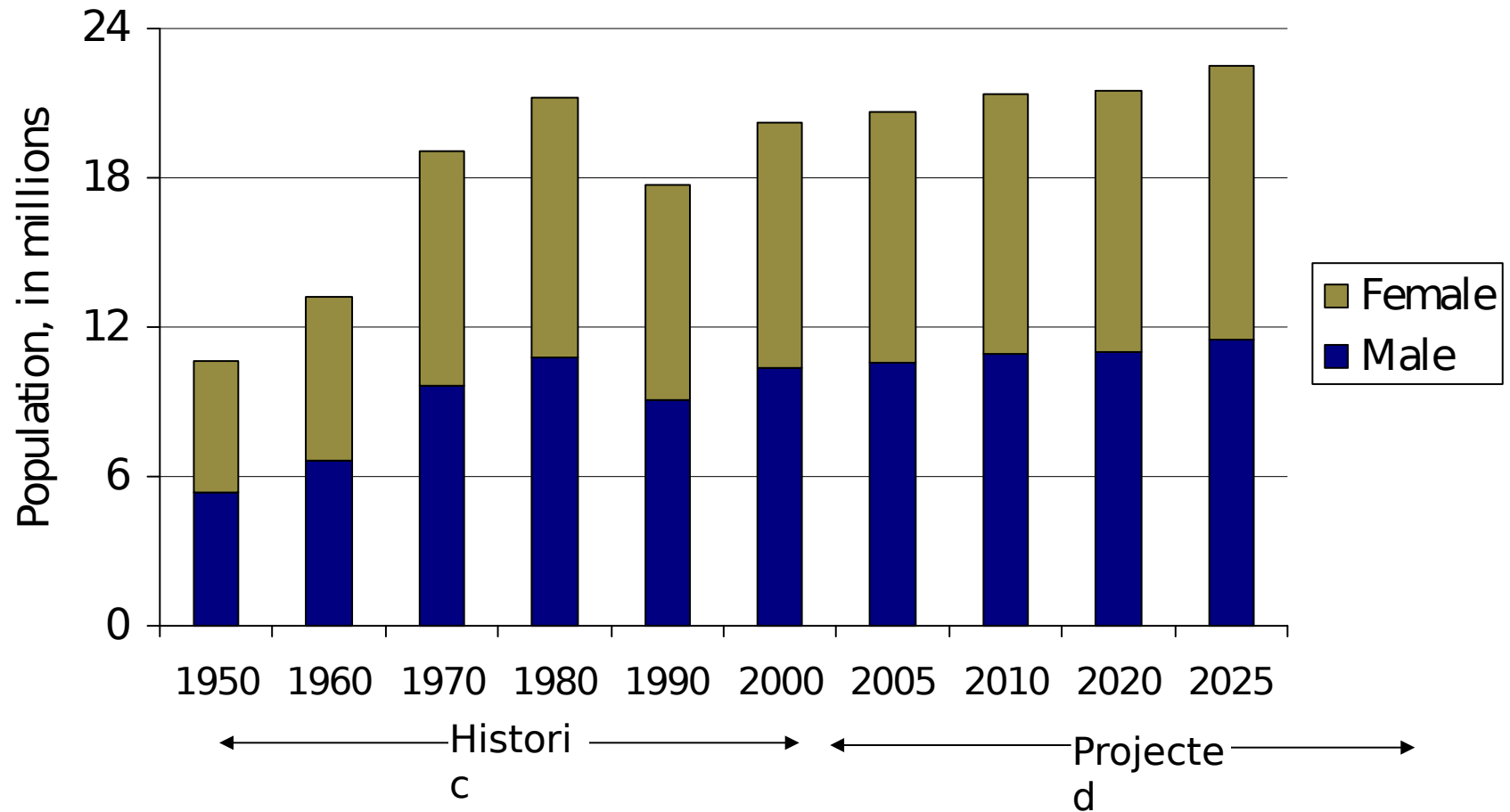
The U.S. Population is Growing Significantly



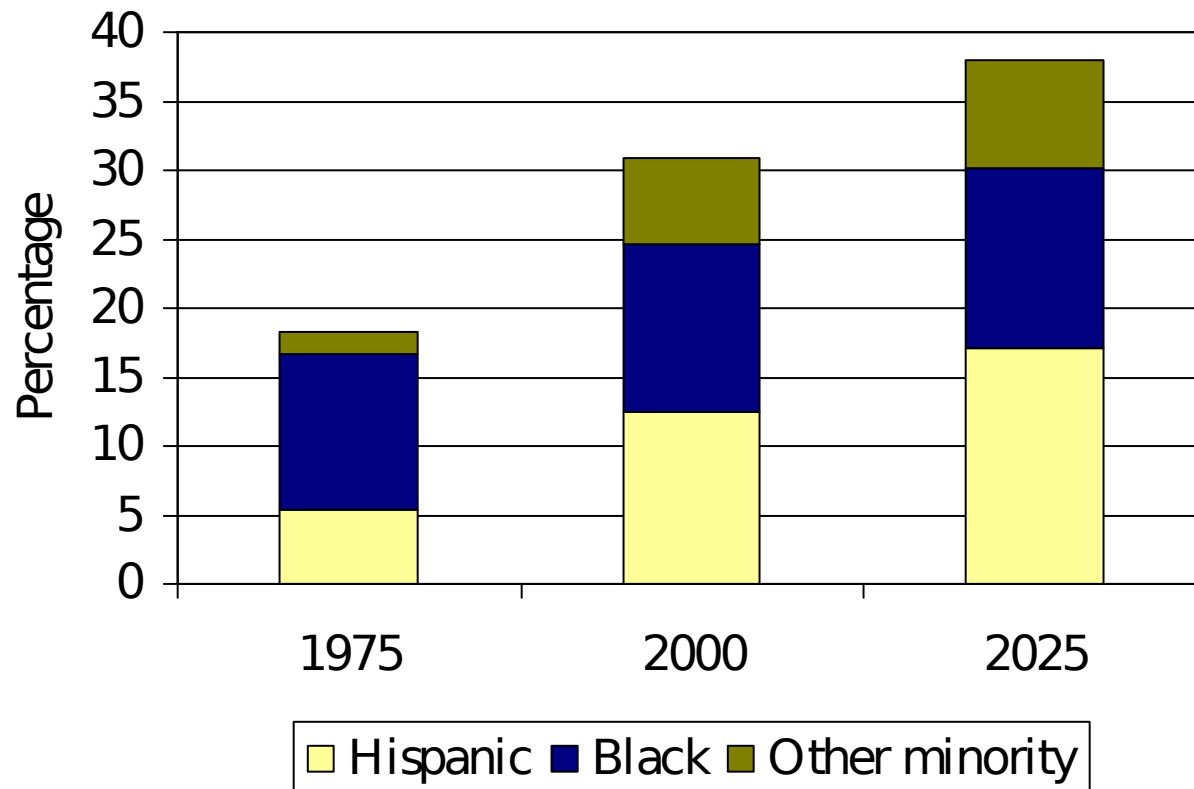
The 15-19 Population is Growing, But ***Slowly***

- This age group projected to grow only 11 percent from 2000 to 2025
 - Much smaller than growth before AVF
- They will become a smaller part of the total U.S. population
 - From 7.2 percent to 6.4 percent
- Much of the growth in 15-19 year olds will come from immigration

U.S. Population, 15 to 19 Years of Age



Rapid Growth of Minority Populations Makes the U.S. Population More Diverse

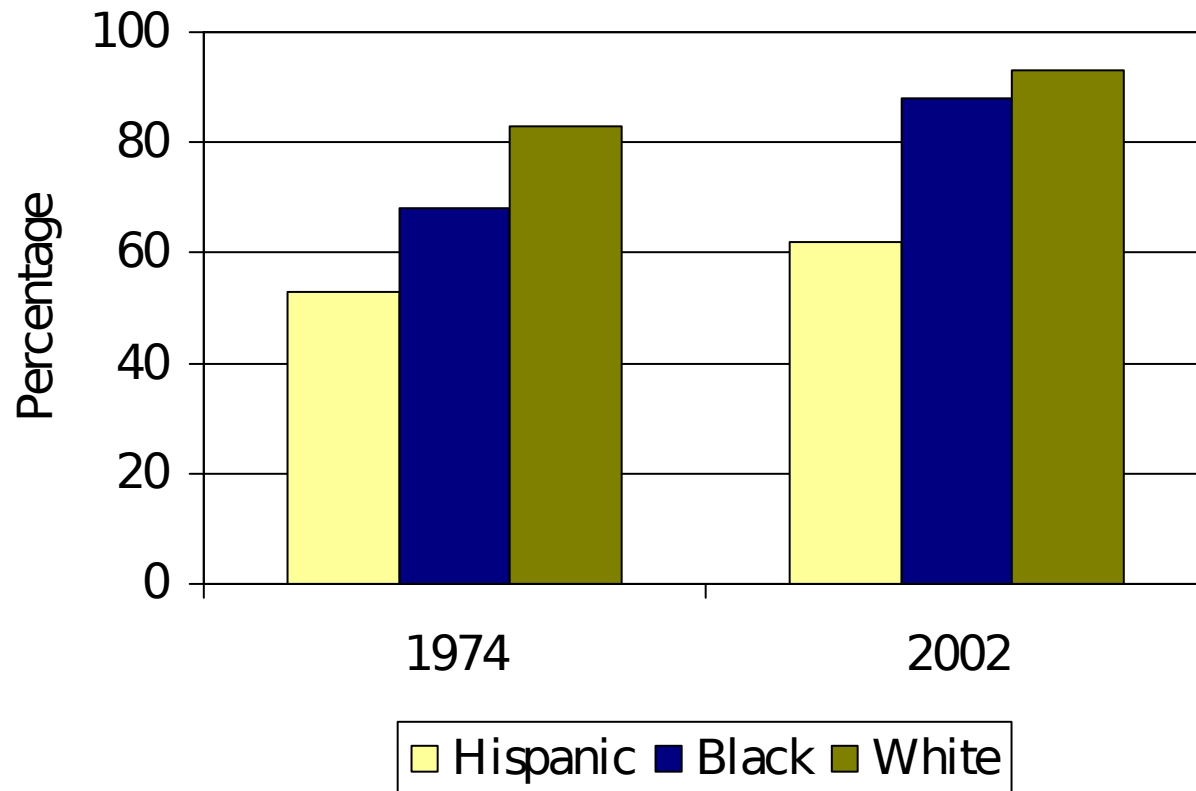


By 2025, 15- to 19-Year-Old Population Will Be Considerably More Hispanic

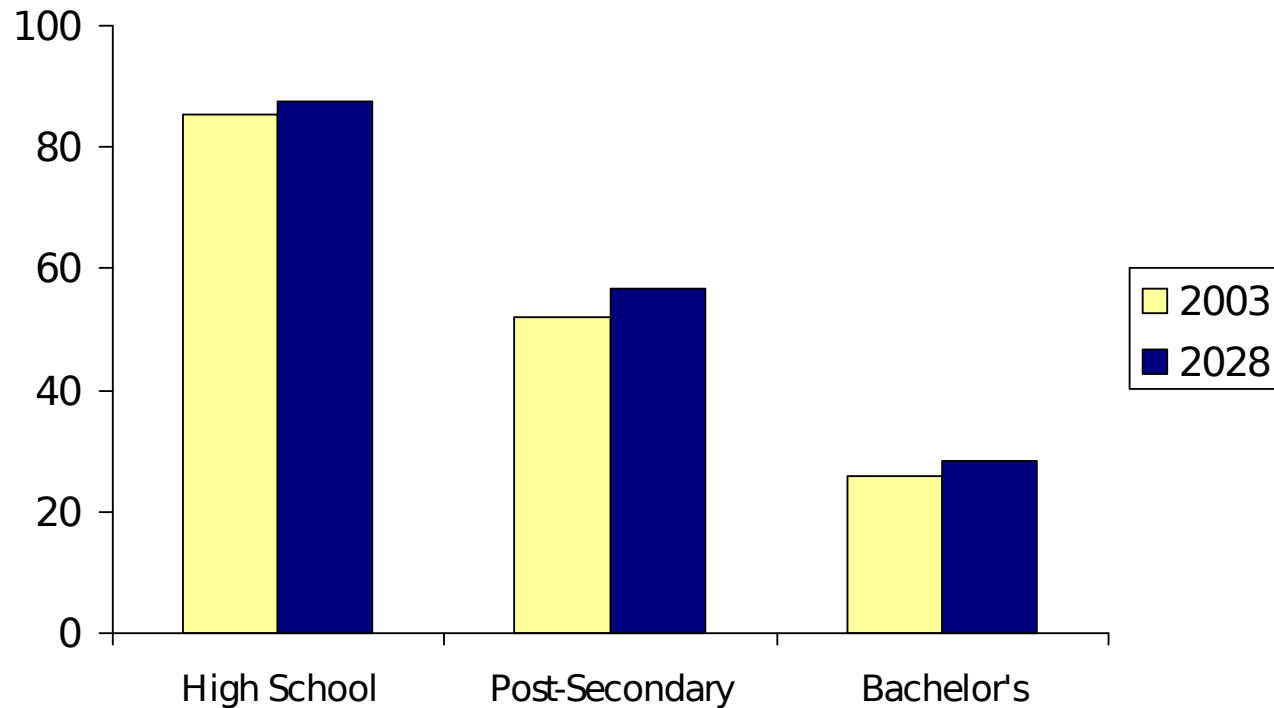
| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|
| • White, non-Hispanic | 56 | |
| • Hispanic | 24 | |
| • Black, non-Hispanic | 15 | |
| • Other, non-Hispanic | <u>5</u> | |
| | | 100% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Educational Attainment (High School Graduates) for 25-29 year olds



Educational Attainment is Expected to Continue to Improve for Ages 25-29



Source: U.S. Census
Bureau

BUT

Educational Attainment: Who are the “High School Graduates”?

- Educational attainment data from U.S. Census
- Census data counts both GEDS and HSDGs as high school graduates
- Very difficult to get good data on regular high school graduates (HSDGs)
 - Can get the numerator (number of degrees granted)
 - Problem is to get the denominator

GEDs and Performance

- GEDs have considerably higher attrition rates in the military than regular HSDGs
 - For example, Marine Corps 1st-term attrition rates in the last decade were 50% for GEDs and 31% for HSDGs
- OSD restricts Tier II (GEDs) and Tier III (dropouts) to 10 percent of accessions
 - Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy more restrictive
- Work by economist James Heckman at Univ of Chicago shows that GEDs also have high quit rates in private sector

Origin and History of GED

- OSD started
 - To provide educational credentials for returning veterans who lacked high school diplomas
 - To enable veterans to take advantage of GI Bill
- By late 1940s
 - Several states began offering GED exams to any high school dropout
- Currently
 - 700,000 to 800,000 dropouts take the exam yearly
 - About 500,000 earn high school credentials
 - Federal minimum age to take GED is 16 years, but states can have higher minimums
 - Washington Post reports Virginia governor Warner pushing GED ad campaign

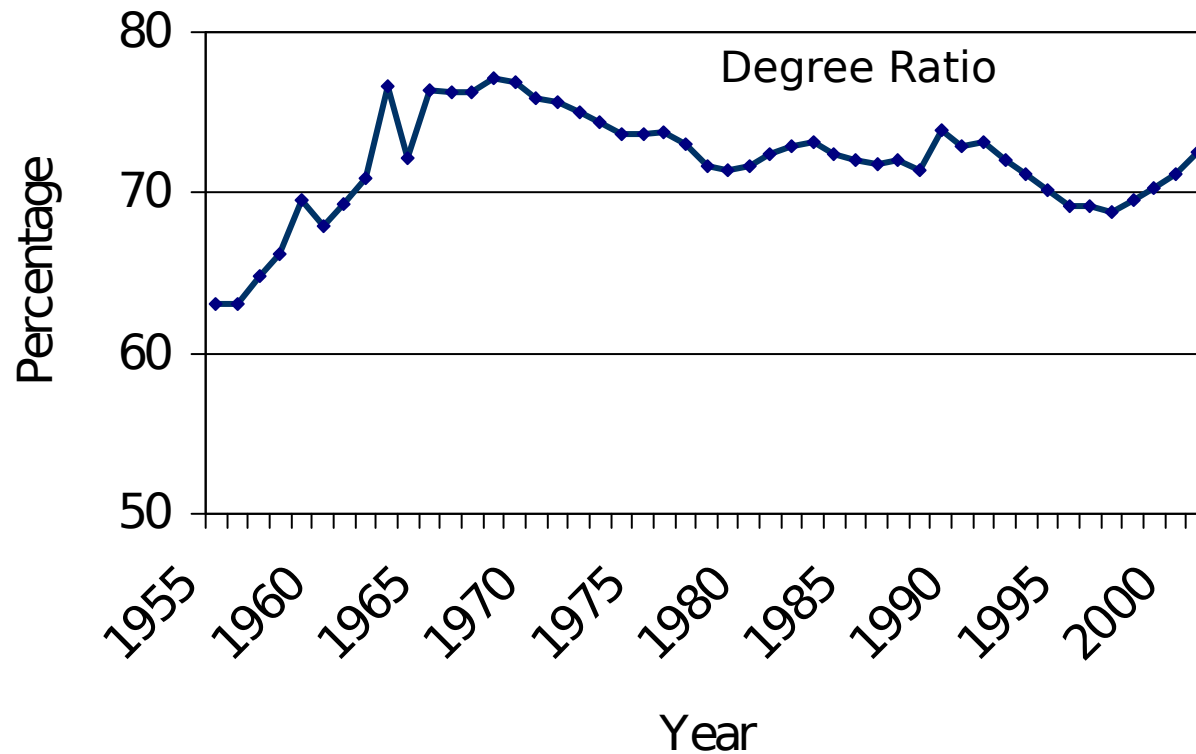
Recent Research on GEDs

- Duncan Chaplin, “Tassels on the Cheap”, *Education Next*, Fall 2002
- John Tyler, “Economic Benefits of the GED: Lessons From Recent Research”, *Review of Education Research*, Fall 2003

Measuring Regular High School Graduation Rates : Degree Ratio

- Number of high school diplomas awarded each year divided by the number of 17 year olds
 - Constructed by Chaplin (Urban Institute)
- Degree ratio rose dramatically since 1870
 - From 2 percent to 77 percent in 1969
- Degree ratio peaked in 1969
 - Bumpy since 1969
 - Now at 72 percent

High School Diploma Graduates as a Share of the 17 year-old population

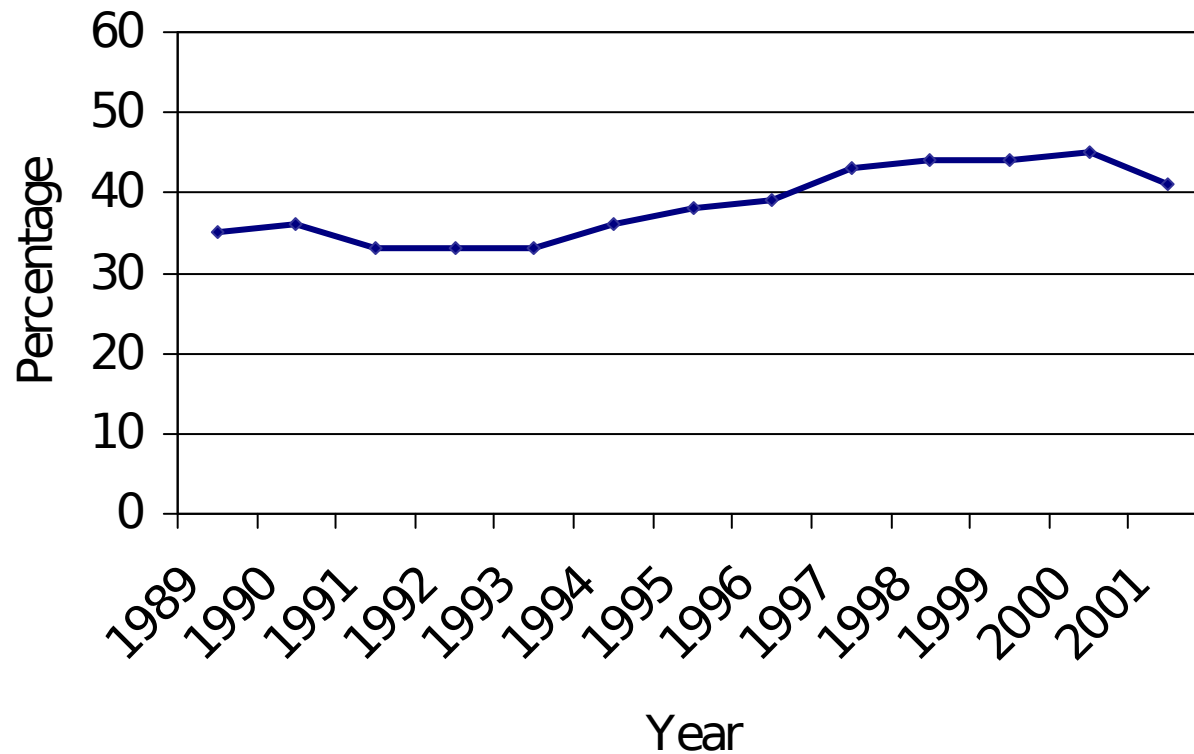


Source: Digest of Education Statistics, 2002.

Do GEDs encourage youth to drop out of school?

- Several studies attempt to answer
 - Use state data on dropouts
 - Try to estimate
 - Use variation in state laws (age, parental approval, cost of test, etc.)
- Problems
 - Data quality is poor
 - Not enough variation across states
 - Still, weak evidence says GEDs do encourage youth to drop out of school

Share of GEDs Issued to those Age 19 or Younger



Source: Digest of Education Statistics, 2002.

Stay-in-school campaign

- Army working with Ad Council
 - ***Operation Graduation***
- OSD should consider
 - Work with Education Department
 - **Raise Federal minimum age to take GED from 16 to 20**
- Recruiters already impacted by increasing numbers of youth going directly to college
 - Growth of young GEDs further squeezes potential recruit population

Summary

- Youth population growing slowly
 - Hispanic population fastest growing
- Hispanics have lowest high school completion rates
- High school graduates
 - Increasing proportion are GEDs
 - GEDs have very high attrition rates in the military
 - GED accessions capped by OSD services
- OSD should consider advocate role
 - Because of origin of GED
 - Importance to the Services of regular high school diploma graduates (HSDGs)